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Still

by

Benjamin Williamson

A thesis submitted to the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research
in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

Master of Fine Arts

in

Painting

Art and Design


©Benjamin Williamson

Fall 2010

Edmonton, Alberta

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Examining Committee

Allen Ball, Department of Art and Design

Steven Harris, Department of Art and Design

Daniela Schlüter, Department of Art and Design

William Beard, Department of English and Film Studies

DEPARTMENT OF ART AND DESIGN

GRADUATE STUDIES

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

I hereby release the following works for incorporation into the University Collections, University of Alberta, as part of the Master of Fine Arts Thesis Collection:

TITLE	DATE	MEDIUM	SIZE
PROOF OF A BEAR	2010	OIL ON CANVAS	32 x 41.5 in
INSURED VALUE \$ 1600.00			

MFA Candidate

Name: Benjamin Williamson

My project is comprised of concentrated moments. The isolated instant recurs as a leitmotif, representing violence, beauty and the sublime. Carefully arranged, the pictures develop into a series of signs which imply connection, forming the narrative character of the show.

Painting is a means of realizing images which are significant to me. The source of each particular picture less important than its resonance, what Roland Barthes termed the 'punctum'. The web of meaning they form is the true subject matter of the show – a reflection of contemporary life.

The formal aspects of my work provide a means of scrutinizing the relationships between subjects. Muted passages, delicately calibrated resolution and restraint fix the paintings to the constellation of my memories and give them their cinematic quality. Distilled to the essential, they are evidence of my experience of the world.

These silent images exhibit a sense of disquiet, displacement and implied calamity. They are melancholic, wry, implicitly critical. Odd "caught" moments and barely-there paint application describe the ephemeral, transient present – the still.

Bibliography

- Barthes, Roland. Camera Lucida: Reflections on Photography. New York: Hill and Wang 1981.
- Barthes, Roland. Mythologies. London: Vintage, 2000.
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- Merleau-Ponty, Maurice. The World of Perception. New York: Routledge, 2004.
- Merleau-Ponty, Maurice. The Merleau-Ponty Aesthetics Reader: Philosophy and Painting Ed. Galen A. Johnson. Evanston Illinois: Northwestern University Press, 1993
- Gilmore, Jonathan. "Between Philosophy and Art" The Cambridge Companion to Merleau-Ponty Eds. Taylor Carman and Mark B. N. Hansen. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005. 291-317
- Phillips, David Llewellyn. "Photography, Modernity, and Art" Nineteenth Century Art – A Critical History Ed. Stephen F. Eisenman. London: Thames and Hudson, 2002. 221-268
- Rancière, Jacques. The Future of the Image. London: Verso, 2007.
- Sontag, Susan. On Photography. New York: Anchor Books, 1990.
- Storr, Robert. Gerhard Richter – Doubt and Belief in Painting. New York: The Museum of Modern Art, 2003.

BEN WILLIAMSON
CURRICULUM VITAE

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EDUCATION

2008-	MFA (candidate) Painting	University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB
2008	BFA (distinction) Painting and Drawing	Concordia University, Montreal, QC
2005	Diploma (distinction) Studio Art	Capilano College, North Vancouver, BC
2002	Painting Certificate	Langara College, Vancouver, BC
2002	Drawing Certificate	Langara College, Vancouver, BC
1994	Welding Certificate	BC Institute of Technology, Burnaby, BC

EXHIBITIONS

2011	Still (upcoming)	Zéphyr Gallery, Montréal, QC
2010	Still (MFA thesis exhibition)	FAB Gallery, University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB
2010	L'Été Chez Zéphyr	Zéphyr Gallery, Montréal, QC
2010	Corpus	Rutherford Library, University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB
2009	Germinations: MFA Students' Exhibition	FAB Gallery, University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB
2009	Oeuvres d'Artistes	Zéphyr Gallery, Montréal QC
2008	Graduating Students' Exhibition (juried)	FOFA Gallery, Concordia University, Montréal, QC
2008	The Sardine Can Collective	Gallerie C-Blu, Montréal, QC
2008	The Chernobyl Narrative (solo)	Zéphyr Gallery, Montréal QC
2008	Art Over Matter	Mile End Gallery, Montréal QC
2007	Bring 'em Out Bring 'em Out	Espace 9 Soeurs, Montréal QC
2007	Door Number Four	Zéphyr Gallery, Montréal QC
2007	Launch	Studio 5262, Montréal QC
2007	The New Figurative	Gallerie Espace, Montréal QC
2007	Oeuvres Choisies (juried)	Gallerie Onze, CGEP Vieux Montréal, Montréal QC
2007	The Light Show	Headquarters Gallery, Montréal QC
2006	Salon Rouge	VAV Gallery, Concordia University, Montréal QC
2006	Turcot: The Overpass Series (solo)	J. Dostie Jewelers, Portland, Maine USA
2006	Robots and Monsters	Ayden Gallery, Vancouver BC
2006	Graduate Exhibition (juried)	Capilano College, North Vancouver BC
2006	You and Who's Army	Ayden Gallery, Vancouver BC
2006	The Urban Landscape	Subeez resaurant, Vancouver BC
2005	Abstracted	Subeez resaurant, Vancouver BC
2005	Form and Function	Ayden Gallery, Vancouver BC
2005	The Figurative Show	Subeez restaurant, Vancouver BC
2005	Black and White	Subeez restaurant, Vancouver BC
2004	Four	Subeez restaurant, Vancouver BC

AWARDS/HONOURS

- 2010 Alberta Heritage Graduate Scholarship, Government of Alberta
- 2009 Alberta Foundation for the Arts Graduate Scholarship in Art and Design, University of Alberta
- 2009 Florence Andison Friedman Award, University of Alberta
- 2008 Concordia Alumni Association Graduate Exhibition Purchase Prize, Concordia University
- 2007 FASA Exhibition Grant, Concordia University
- 2006 FASA Special Project Grant, Concordia University
- 2005 Deans List, Capilano College
- 2005 Barry Cogswell Endowment Scholarship, Capilano College
- 2005 Zoe Graduate Award, Capilano College
- 2004 Canada Study Grant

COLLECTIONS

Concordia Alumni Association	Montréal, QC
Zephyr gallery	Montréal, QC
Subeez Restaurant	Vancouver, BC
J. Dostie Jewelers	Portland Maine, USA

Various private collections

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2009 Principle Instructor, Introductory Painting Studies I, University of Alberta
- 2009(spring) Teaching Assistant, Introductory Painting Studies I, University of Alberta
- 2009 Teaching Assistant, Intermediate Painting Studies II, University of Alberta
- 2008 Graduate Research Assistant, Professor Allen Ball, University of Alberta
- 2008 Teaching Assistant, Advanced Figurative Painting, University of Alberta

OTHER RELATED EXPERIENCE

- 2008 Tutor (oil painting/materials and methods)
- 2008 Set deck for film “Les Grandes Chaleurs”, Christal/Swiftness Films
- 2008 Exceldor publicity (television commercial)
- 2007 Volunteer, Painting and Drawing Association, Concordia University
- 2007 Équipe Montréal, International Ice Sculpture Competition, Carnaval de Québec
- 2006 Visiting artist presentation, Capilano College
- 2006 Props/set deck for film “Of Golf and God”, Mains Films
- 2005-2006 Artist assistant to Mohsen Kahlili (bronze casting and finishing)
- 2004-2006 Co-curator, Subeez restaurant

















File name: williamson.01

Title: Diver Down

Date: 2010

Materials: oil on canvas

Dimensions: 42x52.5in

File name: williamson.02

Title: Eyjafjallajökull

Date: 2010

Materials: oil on canvas

Dimensions: 35x47in

File name: williamson.03

Title: Proof of a Bear

Date: 2010

Materials: acrylic and oil on canvas

Dimensions: 32x41.5in

File name: williamson.04

Title: Highway (an incident)

Date: 2010

Materials: oil on canvas

Dimensions: 37x47in

File name: williamson.05

Title: Loser

Date: 2010

Materials: oil on canvas

Dimensions: 48x66in

File name: williamson.06

Title: Socket

Date: 2009

Materials: oil on canvas

Dimensions: 31.5x21.5in (including frame)

\$900

File name: williamson.07

Title: Rio

Date: 2009

Materials: oil on canvas

Dimensions: 25.5x29.5in (including frame)

File name: williamson.08
Title: Westbank
Date: 2009
Materials: oil on canvas
Dimensions: 60x80in

File name: williamson.09
Title: Pigeons
Date: 2010
Materials: oil on canvas
Dimensions: 74x55in

File name: williamson.10
Title: Rabbit Poisoned by Scientists
Date: 2009
Materials: oil on canvas
Dimensions: 33x39.5in

File name: williamson.11
Title: Pool
Date: 2010
Materials: oil on canvas
Dimensions: 63x79in

File name: williamson.12
Title: K.O. (small)
Date: 2010
Materials: oil on canvas
Dimensions: 38x41in

File name: williamson.13
Title: Spitfire
Date: 2009
Materials: oil on canvas
Dimensions: 32x39.5in

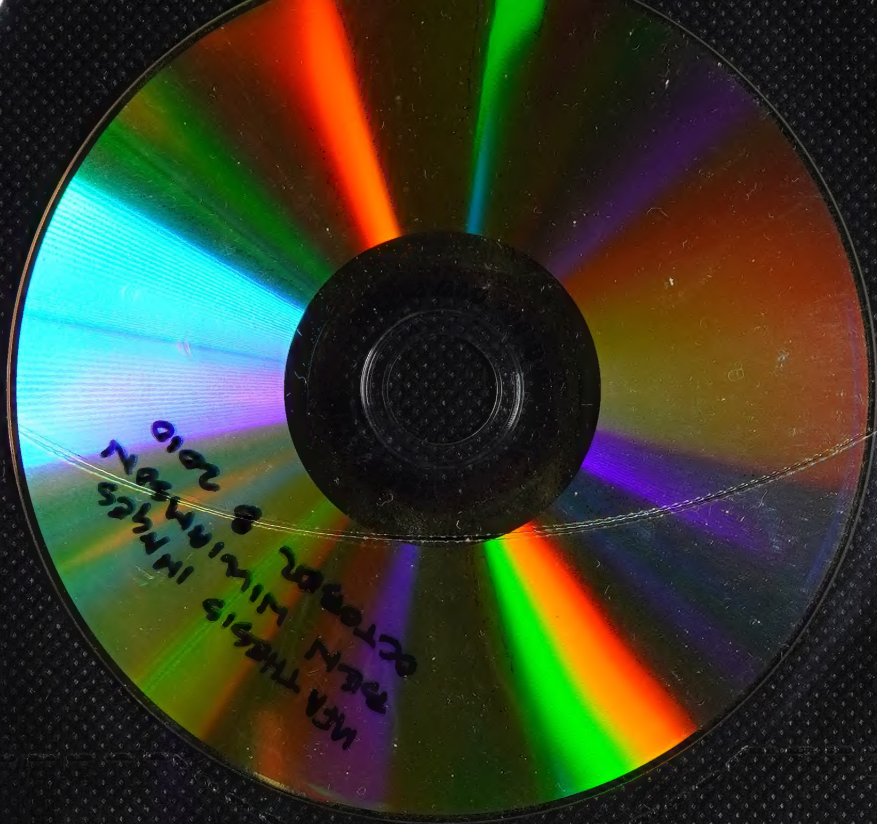
File name: williamson.14
Title: Galapagos
Date: 2010
Materials: oil on canvas
Dimensions: 42x58in

File name: williamson.15
Title: Stars
Date: 2010
Materials: oil on canvas
Dimensions: 41x41in (including frame)

File name: williamson.16
Title: Cockpit
Date: 2010
Materials: oil on canvas
Dimensions: 100x78in

File name: williamson.17
Title: Fly on the Wall
Date: 2009
Materials: tempera and oil on panel
Dimensions: 15.5x18.5in (including frame)

File name: williamson.18
Title: Cub Scout
Date: 2009
Materials: photograph, frosted glass
Dimensions: 31x31in (including frame)



MA THESIS IMAGES
FROM WILKINSON
OCTOBER 8 2010

